

# PEACE NEWS

The International Pacifist Weekly

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May 26, 1950

THREEPENCE

## Facts behind the Arms race

Spokesmen of The Atlantic Treaty Nations repeatedly assert that their governments will not sacrifice social and economic progress to defence expenditure. They are already doing so. In all countries including Britain, there is poverty urgently needing relief which cannot be afforded owing to rising costs of arms.

Mr. Emrys Hughes, MP, told the House of Commons recently that of the taxes collected weekly from the average family £1 2s. 6d. goes in "Defence" and 2s. 3d. on housing. Work on all big tenement houses in Glasgow had been curtailed because of the lack of steel. British and world steel production in 1949 was approximately one-third above the 1935-38 level (Economist, May 20, 1950) in both cases.

Japanese farming families, poverty-stricken, have been selling sons and daughters for slave labour.

SA: Because Rev. Salvador Suarez brought 23 homeless persons to a windowless cellar in a tenement in New York's East Side, he has been fined and threatened with imprisonment. "A substantial proportion of our population does not earn enough to provide the basic necessities of healthful living," says the March, 1950, American Journal of Public Health.

Guatemala: "Thousands have flown (to the U.S. mainland) to escape from this island pest-hole of destitution. The fare is cheap because the planes are loaded to the limit and beyond the limit of safety."—The Catholic Worker.

Scotland: Glasgow's waiting list for houses exceeds 94,000. Of that total 36,000 are classified as homeless, 29,000 as overcrowded, 1,750 as people waiting to be married, and 27,000 living in old, out-of-date properties.—Cmdr. Galbraith in the House of Commons on May 11.

USSR: Mr. Hutchinson, British visitor to Stalingrad told a London Press conference he was impressed at the devastation he saw. "People are still living in holes," he said.

England: "Housewives in the villages of Ansty and Stilton have to walk in all weathers for some 100 yards to get water from corrugated iron butts which are filled twice weekly by a water cart coming from Rugby. These butts have no cover and are liable to contamination."—James Johnson, MP, House of Commons, April 26, 1950.

Nyasaland: Although severe famine conditions in Jan-March, 1950, were forecast in the Autumn of 1949, old people, middle-aged women with children and others, estimated to number 200, died. Feeding and reception camps were inadequate and the Nyasaland Government required the help of voluntary organisations. Britain acquired Nyasaland by conquest in 1891.

## WHAT "BOMBER" HARRIS FORGOT

Curious omissions in RAF war records

A VERY strange speech, recorded by Marshal of the RAF Sir Arthur (Bomber) Harris, was heard by 5,000 airmen at the 2nd annual Bomber Command Night at Albert Hall last Friday.

Praising the bomber crews for their war achievements, he listed those achievements as follows:

"You thrust the enemy on the defensive, deprived his armies of their vital air support, erased his war industries, rubbed out his fleets, wrecked his submarine production, annihilated his merchant marine, and reduced near to ribaldry, the potentially terrible threat of his secret weapons."

Unaccountably, his list ended there. He went on to say he—"would willingly have seen every brick in Germany ground to rubble as a fair exchange for the life of one Allied soldier, one Belsen occupant or one underground resister."

"Let the long-haired gentry who place the destruction of bricks and mortar above such lives, put that in their pipe and smoke."

He thought they were empty

This speech was marked by some extraordinary omissions, writes our Air Correspondent, Air Commodore Sir Oliver Ogilvie.

As it is recorded, this eminent air commander appears to be under the impression that all German urban populations were 100 per cent. evacuated throughout the war,

## BEVIN'S "NO" TO PEACE INITIATIVE

Boyd Orr leads deputation from National Peace Council

By CORDER CATCHPOOL

Joint Chairman of the National Peace Council's Executive Committee and a member of the deputation. Sponsor of the Peace Pledge Union.

FOLLOWING the discovery in January last of the H-Bomb and the decision of President Truman to put it into immediate production, there has been almost unprecedented expression of public concern and protest throughout at least those parts of the world where it is usual and possible to air opinion openly.

The world-wide concern, generally issuing in demands for the abolition of this latest weapon and for a fresh initiative towards understanding and agreement amongst the Great Powers, naturally shared to the full by the British National Peace Council, led it to the initiative of a fresh approach to our own Government, and so to a delegation of Officers of the Council, led by Lord Boyd Orr, to Mr. Bevin on Friday, May 19.

We gratefully recognised the generous spirit which prompted the Minister to meet us so soon after his illness, and immediately following the close of an exacting International Conference of the first importance. The same spirit was evident throughout Mr. Bevin's reception of the delegation, which lasted 40 minutes, every member being invited personally by him to speak, after which he himself explained his own position in a frank, quiet and unhurried manner.

### Four points for peace

The substance of the NPC's concern, submitted in advance to the Foreign Secretary, consisted of the following main points:

1. The present dangerous world situation is being gravely aggravated by ever-growing fear and suspicion. It is urgently necessary that this dangerous drift should be checked.
2. A fresh initiative towards agreement between the Eastern and Western Powers is needed to this end.
3. For good reasons Great Britain bears a special responsibility for such fresh efforts to break the deadlock.
4. A new basis for understanding might be sought:
  - a. negatively, on control of atomic energy and its direction to exclusively peaceful purposes; together with the abolition of weapons of mass-destruction, recognising the fundamental immorality of their manufacture and use, and the futility of attempting to reach any settlement by the methods of modern war.

b. positively, by the world development of world economic resources in the interests of the whole world.

Mr. Bevin, replying at considerable length, spoke of repeated efforts in the past to reach a settlement, illustrated by reference to specific occasions when understanding appeared to have been attained, to be followed by frustration of the attempt due to a reversal of policy by the other side.

### Britain's "No" to peace

These efforts would never cease; continuous watch would be kept for renewed opportunities of discussion. But the Moscow ideology was the great obstacle; and it seemed quite clear to the deputation that an end had come, at least for the time being, to the taking of fresh initiatives on the part of the British Government. That will I think come as a disappointment to the concerned general public in this country.

Meanwhile the only policy for Britain was to build up our strength together with the West. Here in the tail was the sting, at least for the pacifist, in spite of the gracious friendliness of tone and spirit. It should be pointed out, however, that Mr. Bevin was thinking of strength in economic as well as in military terms. It is evidently believed that this building up of strength, a frank reversion to the policy of *Si vis pacem para bellum*, has already scored an important measure of success.

On page eight, Corder Catchpool gives a personal interpretation of the interview, without of course committing either the Council or the Delegation.

### WHITE MAN'S WITCHCRAFT

"IF reports we Africans have heard are correct the atom bomb is white man's witchcraft," the South African Department of Native Affairs has been told in a letter from a retired African teacher.

Before civilisation came it was the African custom to kill wizards who poisoned people, the teacher added.

## 'Police assaulted me'—says pacifist

TRIAL OF 6 PPU MEMBERS

THE trial of the six Liverpool pacifists charged under the Public Order Act with "using abusive behaviour with intent to provoke a breach of the peace" was resumed last Monday and continued on the following day. It had not concluded at the time of going to press.

Peace News reported last week that at the first hearing the prosecution hinted that the charges might be amended.

Hugh Lytton, PPU member and schoolmaster, and one of those charged, has issued the following statement:

"On Sunday May 14 we assembled at the corner of Canning Street and Hope Street at about 4 p.m. and there received the banners.

"We had intended dispersing from there, but as soon as only one or two banners were up a crowd of policemen came round us and told us to move off. We moved off—away from the crowd—down Canning Street and turned left into Catherine Street, constantly followed, prodded and occasionally pushed by policemen. In particular I remember Constable 206 B pushing me at the corner of Catherine Street and remember remarking to him that this was assault.

### A push off from the PC

"At the next corner we turned left into Blackburn Place with the intention, as Thomas Harland (also charged) remarked, of going into town. The police came in front of us then and stopped us from going into Blackburn Place.

"I was just about to ask why we were not allowed to proceed in that direction, when Constable 110 B gave me a violent push. I said: 'Don't touch me!' to which his answer was: 'I'll show you how I'll touch you—you are arrested now.' Violently getting hold of me he walked off with me towards the police station.

"We were accompanied by Miss Cummins who voluntarily came with us to the police station in Olive Street to see whether she could do something for me. Once there, she was arrested too—I believe at the instigation of the Inspector. I did not see how the other were arrested.

### Crowd was friendly

"As regards the crowd: It is completely untrue to say that we caused a disturbance. There were a few kids and sightseers who followed us, but they only began to gather when the police set on us.

"It was the police behaviour that attracted attention.

"One man next to me said: 'Stick to your guns and you'll be all right.' That much for the 'hostility' of the crowd.

"As regards the police assertion that we 'forced our way through the crowd,' This is a manifest absurdity. We started at the corner of Canning Street and Hope Street at the edge of the big crowd and were immediately pushed away from it by the police. How could we then 'force our way through the crowd'?

"The immediate cause of my arrest seems to have been my venturing to draw attention to the fact that Constable 110 B had committed a common assault against me."



THE BIG THREE HAVE AGREED ON A POLICY

—Official Communiqué



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## UNREALITY

**EVERY** effort was made to popularise the Foreign Ministers and Atlantic Treaty conferences.

Yet The Observer has to complain that their "historic importance was scarcely reflected in most of the press reports, which often had a half-bored, half-puzzled air."

The reporters may well have been unenthusiastic. For the claims of "historic importance," "democratic unity," "progress towards peace" and other "great achievements," made by the various spokesmen, were utterly false.

The results of the conferences have given the people no assurance of any kind. They have if anything lessened any sense of security there was; and it is fitting that at the close of them the press announces that in accordance with the act of 1948, all London Borough Councils have been ordered to prepare detailed plans for evacuation by June 30.

That, with all its ominous associations, is the true comment on the whole affair.

There is no historic importance. There is nothing but historic commonplace. Nothing has been achieved but a military alliance on lines which are historically stale. It differs from other alliances only in being the most futile alliance in history, for it is in preparation for a war which it is admitted nobody can win.



Most significant of all comments was that broadcast which, summarising the results of the conferences, said—as if it were a new thing—that there had been more progress in military than in political unity.

We do not know what else they expected. Political unity would have implied real progress: the formulation of some common conception of constructive social advancement. There has been none; only an agreed plan of destruction.

Military unity always has been the easiest form of unity to make between states. It can be made without any other kind. Military unity never has meant anything but a means of winning a war; and we need no better example of that than the last war, in which the nation that saved us from invasion became the dreaded foe in the record time of three years.

Mr. Bevin, summing up the discussions, said, "We have been engaged in the creation of a great Atlantic Brotherhood."

The Daily Herald welcomed this superficial phrase with a leader headed by the single imposing word "Brotherhood," closing with the peroration: "Their (the Atlantic nations') strength and resources are enormous. With every step taken to increase their unity the danger of war diminishes."

The reverse is true, and most people feel it. This kind of talk is falling flatter and flatter.

There is no sense of "brotherhood," nor of unity, nor of historic importance; only a growing anxiety and sense of impending calamity. With each new assurance of defensive strength the anxiety grows; with each pronouncement of unity, on such terms, the sense of disunity among mankind deepens.



Unity on grounds of a common fear is not unity at all; a brotherhood founded on common hatred and suspicion is a perversion of the word. The ordinary instincts of men know this; that is why there is no response, beyond a dull acquiescence, to all this talk of great events and democratic progress.

It is to those ordinary instincts that we have to appeal.

When we say that in such situations as this the only practical, realistic step is to abandon national defence, we are not enunciating an abstract principle. We are merely repeating what most people have already proved true in the smaller personal affairs of life.

In the midst of wild fantasies we are talking practical politics.

**N**O one can fail to be glad that the Prime Minister took the initiative in sending a message to Canada expressing sympathy with the thousands of citizens of Winnipeg who are suffering through the floods.

And, better still, that the Prime Minister followed this up with an offer, however slight, of some practical help in the way of drugs, medical services and skilled personnel. Undoubtedly Mr. Attlee's reactions in this respect were sincere and on the highest moral level.

Yet this immediate and spontaneous act, widely welcomed, contrasts sadly with the disinterest shown towards an even greater calamity in the world at this moment: the starvation of millions of Chinese people as a result of famine. Is there no one in the House of Commons who will direct the Prime Minister's attention to this?

### Ships and food for China

**I** HAVE already written in this Commentary that whilst there is not much we can do in the way of sending foodstuffs to China, we could at least offer to provide shipping if countries better placed with food, such as the United States, which has a glut, would put their surpluses into a pool. Apart from merchant shipping, some of which could be sacrificed to this need, we have plenty of vessels wasting time and money carting stuff about for naval and military exercises.

It would be a pleasure to see them doing something useful. And a single act of this sort would do more real work for peace than a dozen meetings of Foreign Ministers.

### Will another mistake be made

**W**HAT really is our attitude towards the new China? Apart from a belated, regretful admission that a change of Government has taken place, there seems to be a most extraordinary silence.

It is silly just to lump China along with all the other Communist countries. There is no evidence that China is as closely linked with Moscow as the pro-Cominform European States are. Certainly, the Communist Party holds the power in China, but a lot more than that has happened.

A long overdue social revolution has started there and the way this revolution develops will depend a lot on the way the rest of the world treats it.

If there had been a better attempt to understand the Russian Revolution at the beginning, it would certainly have developed on different lines and we wouldn't have had the harsh world ideological conflict there is today.

**I**T is fitting that in the Nobel Peace Prize lecture I should consider the possibility of eliminating the causes of war and bringing in a new era of world unity and peace by the intelligent application of the new knowledge and power over nature which science had given to mankind.

The history of civilisation has been one of intermittent war. But, "we have now reached the end of the age of competing empires, because what Alfred Nobel foresaw has happened. Science has produced such powerful weapons that in a future war between great powers there would be neither victor nor vanquished. Both would be overwhelmed in destruction."

Every increase in knowledge has brought about changes in the political, economic and social structure. The English Civil War, the French Revolution, and the Russian Revolution have all resulted from the continuous adjustment of society to the stimulus of new knowledge.

In the last 50 years science has advanced more than in the 2,000 previous years—we have the atomic bomb, radio, and the transatlantic air-liner. In biological science the advance has been as wonderful though not as spectacular. At the same time that mankind has gained these new powers, the idea of the rights of the individual has spread among the coloured races who now demand freedom and a standard of living equal to that of the white race.

The present world wide revolution is due to the difficulty of adjusting human society to this terrific impact of modern science.

We are now physically, politically and economically one world, and nations so interdependent that the absolute national sovereignty of nations is no longer possible. Some form of world government with agreed international law, and means of enforcing the law, is inevitable.



And as science has produced a new political environment, so too it has produced new industrial conditions. With the advance of technology more and more goods are produced with less and less labour. After the first World War the economic problem was no longer one of production, but one of finding markets that the output of industry and agriculture might be dispersed and consumed. Production was cut down to the level of economic demand; land went out of cultivation; factories were idle; unemployment increased to over ten millions in the United States, and nearly three millions in the United Kingdom. The economic system broke down because it could not carry the great wealth which modern science can create.

## Commentary

By DOUGLAS ROGERS

Are we to repeat this mistake in relation to China?

### Forgotten facts

**T**HE first thing to recognise is that the successes of the "Communist" armies were not the result of military support from Russia. Their rapid advances were against a regime that was socially rotten and had no moral authority over the masses of the people.

The peasants regarded the "rebel" armies as liberators—for land reforms, long needed, and the institution of previously unknown local self-government followed in the wake of the armies. Millions of peasants were released from long servitude: they found themselves for the first time secure on the lands they worked.

Chiang's armies collapsed because his soldiers went over to the "enemy" in thousands and took their weapons with them. No wonder, then, that the Americans eventually became sceptical of "nationalist" claims and pleas for help. Often the Communist were winning the war with American arms!

These facts, which were frequently admitted in our Press at the time, should not be forgotten now.

One may deplore the fact that the revolution in China has been accompanied by violence, but one cannot argue with history.

### Welcome reforms

**G**REAT social reforms are taking place in China that ought to be welcomed. The land reforms and the seeds, for the first time, of democracy. The measures to curb the inflation that ran riot fantastically under Chiang Kai Shek. The banking and other financial reforms intended to relate money to economic facts and prevent China being the happy hunting ground of international racketeers. These are all justifiable, necessary reforms.

A year ago (I still have the newspaper cuttings) the Communist Government expressed its anxiety to establish diplomatic and trade relations with foreign powers. But on fair terms. Trade with China has previously been largely a business of exploitation.

If the western world wants to put an iron curtain round China it has the power to do so. If it doesn't it must recognise that the revolution in China is part of the world-wide upsurge of the "backward" and "colonial" peoples against economic exploitation. The emergence of the Chinese Communist Party is incidental to this.

And for goodness sake, don't let us study events in China as if they were taking place against a social background such as we know in the west. The extent of the difference is indicated in recent measures

taken to improve the status of women. A new marriage law abolishes polygamy and child marriages and gives equal rights to both sexes.

Whilst the Communist Government recognise that this cannot be established simply by passing a law, it says: "Correct implementation of the law will emancipate the people, especially women, from an age-long system and make possible a new marriage system, new family relations, and new social morality."

Who in the west is going to argue about this?

### "Bomber" Harris's brick

**L**AST week Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris sent a recorded message from South Africa to the annual reunion at the Albert Hall of men of Bomber Command. Referring to the bombing of Germany, Harris, who was in charge of this campaign, said:

"I myself—and I am sure all of you—would willingly have seen every brick in Germany ground to rubble as a fair exchange for the life of one Allied soldier or one occupant of Belsen, or one slave labourer, or one underground resister in occupied territory. Let the long-haired gentry put that in their pipes and smoke it. . . . Enjoy yourselves this evening with glad hearts, clear consciences and the knowledge of duty well done."

God save the King! I feel that "Bomber" Harris puts his case in such extremes that he is probably trying to convince himself that his conscience is clear. But I agree with the basis of his argument.

### Shades of Nuremberg

**T**HE object of a war is to win it and in wartime the entertainment of humanitarian feelings is national treachery. If you begin to think about the morality of your slaughtering and destruction you will certainly lose the war. And I have much more respect for the frank utterance of "Bomber" Harris than for the bunk of the military gentlemen who pretend that Britishers fight wars according to codes of honour and ethical principles.

All I hope is that Harris allows his enemies the right to the same point of view. What does "Bomber" think about the execution of Germans who believed that ruthlessness towards the enemy was necessary for the success of their war?

Frankly, I don't think anyone fighting a war will abstain from "atrocities" if he thinks that to do so would seriously prejudice the success of the war. Faced with such an issue he must decide whether war itself is not the supreme atrocity. Nowadays you must be either for it or agin it. It is total in every sense.

## SCIENCE AND PEACE

The following is an extract from the Nobel Peace Prize Lecture delivered in Oslo last year

By LORD BOYD ORR

when he received the award for 1949. The lecture is to be published in pamphlet form by the National Peace Council.

Disaster seemed inevitable. It came. Unemployment was cured, first in Germany and then in other countries by the production of armaments for the second World War.

During the last war there was a market for everything, but already the post-war shortage of everything has been made good, and the fight for markets has begun.

Yet if the target of output were the satisfaction of human needs there would be no difficulty about markets. The upsurge in Asia, which is liable to spread to all coloured races, is fundamentally a revolt against hunger and poverty. There can be no peace in the world so long as a large proportion of the population lack the necessities of life. World peace is based on World plenty, which can be attained only by a United States of the World.



During the first World War the suggestion for a World Government took the form of a League of Nations. It would be wrong to belittle the League: The conception was so sound that it nearly succeeded. After the second World War a second attempt was made.

U.N. is a better organisation than the League, for in addition to the Assembly and the Security Council, there are the specialised Agencies—the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Health Organisation, and the Economic and Social Council, through which nations can co-operate to apply science to develop the resources of the earth.

If the 60 governments which have given the great ideal of co-operation lip service, would agree that out of every 20 units of their currency they are devoting to the preparation of war, one would be taken for an international fund for the development of these agencies, and also agree to give them a little authority to act in the international field, within a few years time the political issues which divide the nations would become meaningless.

Permanent peace cannot be attained merely by efforts to avoid war. We will be on the road to World Unity and Peace only when nations begin to co-operate on a world scale to apply science to develop the

resources of the world for the benefit of all. The means of co-operation are ready and waiting in the Specialised Agencies of the United Nations to which all the great powers adhere.

The nation, or group of nations, which will make a great new gesture of friendship and an offer to collaborate with all governments in a simple and concrete world plan of development, would win the allegiance of the people of all countries who are sick of death of political conflict and preparation for war. The Government which is strongest and surest of itself is the one which should take the lead in this road to peace.

But in the long run the decision of peace or war lies with the people: if the peoples of the world get together and with one united voice demand world unity and peace they will get it. It is the duty of every person of intelligence and goodwill to support one or other of the international people's organisations, that we in our day may see the beginning of the building of the New and Better World which our children shall inherit.

### THE ITCHING PALM

You see before you (if you have any imagination) one of two pictures. Either: (a) the pathetic figure of the Editor standing before you with large, pleading eyes, hollow cheeks and other signs of WANT; or:

(b) the bright, cheerful figure of the Editor standing before you with outstretched money-box and beaming face, happy in the confidence that he is going to get all he asks.

You can choose which picture is the more suitable to your temperament and the more likely to touch your heart. I am too polite to mention your pocket.

All I ask is that whichever picture you choose, you bear in mind the following simple sum:

400 people, each collecting 2d. a week from 10 people would produce £1,800 a year.

which, strangely enough, is exactly the income we need to cover the cost of the increased size of the paper and the additional staff required to produce it efficiently.

### THE EDITOR

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# Send goodwill mission to South Africa

—MICHAEL SCOTT

THE possibility of Cambridge University, or some other body of public opinion, sending out a goodwill mission to South Africa to discuss their problems and try to elicit a more positive response than had yet been elicited by the political debates that had taken place in the United Nations, was referred to by the Rev. Michael Scott when speaking in the Cambridge Guildhall last week before leaving for the Hague.

In forwarding this suggestion, he said: "It may be that something of the kind would help to arouse public opinion in South Africa to the dangers that lie ahead of them and to the responsibilities which South Africa owes to the world and to the whole Continent of Africa."

An audience of between six and seven hundred people—mostly undergraduates—attended the meeting which was organised by the Cambridge Peace Council, the United Nations Association and the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

The Rev. Professor C. E. Raven (Master of Christ's College) was in the chair.

## Co-operation between races essential

Earlier in his speech the Rev. Scott had commented on the enormous potentialities of the great African Continent and went on: "More than ever one realises that this project of development of which the scientists of our age are telling us, and the solving of the food and population problems, can only be achieved if there is co-operation between the only the different races of African people, but between our scientists and technicians and the social organisation of the African people."

"One realises, too, that if this process of undermining, of breaking up the social organisation of the South African people is to go on, such as we are familiar with in South Africa, it will not be possible to undertake the vast problems of development to that Continent."

He also spoke of the many problems which, he said, must be familiar to the audience, and some of which had caused a certain amount of hurt to people who came from South Africa.

"I have heard it said," he declared, "that we ought not to wash our dirty linen in public, but I think it is sometimes better to wash one's dirty linen in public than not to wash it at all."

## Religion in a new age

"I think also we have a certain obligation to God and to truth which over-rides the artificial frontiers which men have devised, and we are beginning to see the birth of a new spirit and the world is feeling its way towards a consciousness of mankind and a consciousness of the obligation of all peoples to certain principles and ideals which we have in common."

"The old tribal gods have fallen down and we are looking towards a new age and, I think, if religion in the future is to have any reality, it must find a way; it must find a means of bringing its moral force to bear on these crises in the world."

## TRAINING CHRISTIANS FOR WAR

"Reverses youth's early teaching

WHEN the Rev. Clifford Macquire spoke of to members of the Darlington branch of the Fellowship of Reconciliation in the Friends Meeting House, Darlington, on May 8, he suggested to his audience that many Christians were suffering from "departmentalising of ideas"; a controlled effort to divide their minds in such a way that they did not have to face up to the mutually irreconcilable problems which faced the world today.

Speaking on "Crisis for Christendom," he said that such examples of the irreconcilable could be found in such spheres as science, when experts might be simultaneously working on schemes to improve the fertility of the earth, and to depopulate it with lethal bacteria. This departmentalising of our ideas might be indulged in by quite sincere Christians. "There, I suggest, is the explanation of what our world is suffering from," said Mr. Macquire.

This illogicality extended to the teaching of our young people. After early teaching in the principles of peace and sacrifice, they were sent into the forces, where those ideas were reversed.

It was for such reasons that there could be no real compromise between our Christian principles and the methods we were adopting today.

"This is no time for devaluing the Christian world," warned the speaker. "This is no time to say that Communism is more powerful than Christianity, or that fear is greater than faith."

Condemning the idea of a Christian then arming himself with an atom bomb, Mr. Macquire concluded, "This is no time for defence is sure, and then go on to ignore all that it means."

# WORLD RELIGIONS TO MEET FOR PEACE

REPRESENTATIVES of nine religions and about thirty-five cultural and political associations from more than twenty countries will be attending a World Convention of Religions on the Foundations of Peace to take place in London from Aug. 18-24, 1950.

Among the many pacifists who will be speaking are Corder Catchpool, Dr. A. D. Belden, Reginald Sorensen, MP, Rev. Percy Ineson, Stuart Morris, H. S. L. Polak, Roy Walker, Swami Ayyakandananda, Prof. Dr. M. Sadayasu of the Japanese Section of the War Resisters' International.

Any church or society in sympathy with the objects of the Convention may appoint one or more delegates by paying a fee (which will be the same for individuals) of 12s. 6d.

A Questionnaire of which an abridged version appears below, has been prepared to facilitate discussion. The full questionnaire and an outline programme may be had from the Vedanta Movement, 51 Lancaster Gate, London, W.2, the organisation responsible for organising the convention.

## (1) RELIGIONS AND PEACE

What practical ways can the established religions of the world suggest for the abolition of all forms of warfare? What, according to them, are the causes of war? How can the understanding between the followers of different faiths be strengthened for the purpose of world peace? Can tribal religions co-operate with organised religions to this end? What are the principles and methods of peace with which all religions can agree? How can we evolve a universal religious consciousness, retaining the individual features of all faiths? What are the spiritual foundations of peace?

## (2) IDEOLOGIES AND PEACE

Can the existing ideologies be reconciled? What ideology is most suitable for universal peace and brotherhood? Can Capitalism and Communism go side by side? What do the religions think about the Capitalist, Socialist, Communist and Anarchist social orders? What aspects of these orders can be accepted? Is there any possibility of combining the creative features of all these into a spiritual social order, or should a spiritual social order be unique? Can any or all of these orders be spiritualised? Which of them is nearest to spiritual idealism?

## (3) NON-VIOLENCE AND PEACE

As global war may lead to the destruction of mankind, can the religions make any positive suggestion to the two blocs into which the world is divided? Can the religions suggest any moral method of struggle to re-

move injustice, oppression and exploitation? Can the principles and methods of non-violence as set forth by Mahatma Gandhi be universally applied, or are they too idealistic for the modern world? What dynamic role can conscientious objectors play to establish a peaceful world community?

## (4) RACIALISM, NATIONALISM, COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM

How far are racialism, nationalism, colonialism and imperialism responsible for war? Can they be reconciled with the universal brotherhood, preached by all religions? Can racial segregation be desirable? Can inter-marriage between races promote peace? What do the religions suggest for the security of the coloured peoples?

## (5) FOOD AND POPULATION

Is war connected with the problems of population and food supply? Have religions any suggestions as to the rational distribution of land, and free colonisation? Is universal vegetarianism, which will require smaller acreage of foodstuffs, practicable and desirable? What are the proper means of controlling the growth of population? What steps should be taken for the preservation of the soil?

## (6) EDUCATION AND CULTURE

What kinds of education and culture will promote world peace? Is mere literacy sufficient? Does the competitive spirit of modern education create a spirit of false adventure?

## (7) UNO AND WORLD GOVERNMENT

Is World Government desirable? Can UNO develop into a World Government? How can the white people who are in a minority and the coloured people who are in a majority co-operate in a World Government? Can World Government succeed without the freedom of colonies and dependencies? Is World Federal Government conceivable with two ideological blocs? Can World Government secure peace if Capital and Labour remain in conflict? Is a classless society essential for World Government? What are the political foundations of peace?

## (8) WORLD ECONOMY AND PEACE

How far is competition for markets and raw materials responsible for war? Is modern industrialism compatible with peace? Does it imply a uniform salary system? Can there be private enterprise and private initiative without conflict? Is a high standard of living, shared equally by all, against religion? What are the economic foundations of peace?

## (9) DISARMAMENT AND PEACE

Is universal disarmament desirable? If so, what are the constructive ways to peace? What are the spiritual means of removing suspicion and fear from the minds of the nations? Should the religions try to persuade the Governments to resort to complete disarmament and to organise peace armies? Can there be a righteous war? Would the destruction of the atom bombs create a friendly atmosphere in which nations could discuss peace? Is unilateral disarmament possible? Should the religions ask the armed forces to refuse to fight?

## (10) A WORLD PEACE MOVEMENT

Can there be a World Peace Movement on the basis of the harmony of all faiths? Can such a Movement bring theists, atheists and agnostics together on the basis of some ethical principle? What steps can be taken to win the co-operation of the peasants and workers in the cause of peace? What percentage of the world's population does desire peace today?

## British Legion and PPU members support Kensington Peace Committee

THIRTY Kensington residents have issued a joint call for the formation of a Kensington Peace Committee at an inaugural meeting to be held on June 15 at Essex Church, Hall, Kensington.

Among the signatories to a letter appealing for support, are a Unitarian minister, an Alderman, the Secretary and President of the North Kensington British Legion, three members of the Peace Pledge Union, members of the British Peace Committee, the Society of Friends and many other local organisations and trades' union branches.

The letter emphasises that the future policy and affiliations of the committee have in no way been prejudiced and can only be determined by the Committee itself when formed.

# Mr. Shinwell was silent

Mr. Keeling, MP (Cons., Twickenham) in the House of Commons: What steps are taken by the Service Departments to counteract propaganda against voluntary service in the Fighting Forces?

Mr. Shinwell, MP, Minister of Defence: Every opportunity is taken by the Service Departments to present the attractions of service life and to emphasise the importance of service in His Majesty's Armed Forces both Regular and Auxiliary. The Service Departments through their public relations branches would take special action in suitable cases to answer deliberately hostile propaganda. The hon. Member will, however, recognise that the advantage may often lie in ignoring such propaganda.

Mr. Keeling: As the Minister knows, this question was inspired by a recent BBC broadcast entitled "Man at War," which contained the innuendo that there is something shameful in teaching a soldier how to kill. Will he spare a word to condemn such pacifist propaganda?

Mr. Shinwell: I have gone into this but there are varying views about it, and it may well be that it has not done as much harm as the hon. Member thinks.

Mr. Emrys Hughes, MP (Lab., South Ayrshire): Can my right hon. Friend say what answer his Department have given to the propaganda contained in the Sermon on the Mount?

Mr. Shinwell was silent.

# POINTERS

MILLIONS of pounds are needed to solve the problems presented by the half million Arab refugees from Israel who have doubled the population of Jordan, Madame Sukkar, wife of the Jordan Finance Minister told a London Press conference last week. "In Amman," said Madame Sukkar, "I saw a man dying from tuberculosis in a little room and children were playing round him. The problem facing us is that of people whose moral and physical conditions are growing worse."

British Commonwealth countries and the U.S. will have to contribute \$4,500,000,000 over the next ten years "to keep South-East Asia out of Communist hands," says a Daily Mail report (May 16), of the Commonwealth Conference in Australia.

Forty-four Russian "Moskvitch" cars have been received by Sweden. 1,000 are promised this year.

Three-quarters of the key policy-making officials in the German State Government of Wurttemberg-Baden are former Nazis, says an Associated Press report of an official German survey.

The Committee on Chaplains to H.M. Forces in their report to be submitted to the forthcoming General Assembly of the Church of Scotland ask, "In a Christian country is the worship of God to have a recognised part in the organised life of the forces or is it not?"

Mr. Sorensen expressed his dissatisfaction, in the House of Commons on May 17, at provisions made for German unmarried mothers who wish to bring affiliation proceedings against men in the British Occupation Forces who are the fathers of their children. He told the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that he would raise the matter again.

When the Grimsby trawler Etruria put into a Norwegian port on the day following release by the Russian authorities the British Consul at Honningsvaag ordered the captain not to talk. The Russian Government had only imposed a £30 fine on the vessel caught fishing in Soviet waters. The Norwegian Government had fined the same trawler £2,000 for a similar offence in Norwegian waters last November.

Three Italian Generals who arrived in Italy along with other released POWs from Russia said that after being held in a POW camp until May, 1949, they were suddenly arrested and charged "as war criminals for hypothetical atrocities in a village near Minsk." The generals asked to meet the notables of the village, who said that the Italians had behaved with kindness there, seven years before—Manchester Guardian.

## Birmingham's 1950 Peace Week

TWELVE affiliated organisations in Birmingham working for World Peace which form the Birmingham Peace Council are planning a large-scale Peace Week between Sunday, Oct. 15 and Saturday, Oct. 21, 1950.

The Council is circularising youth organisations, Churches, community centres, political parties, clubs and international societies, asking for their support in the inclusion of an item relating to World Peace in their Autumn programme, coinciding with the dates of Peace Week.

# PEACE NOW—OR NEVER

In an address given at St. Marks Unitarian Church, Edinburgh, recently, Rev. Wallace Tavener contrasted the words of the Secretary of the United Nations Organisation in calling for an end to the cold war in 1950, with the actions of the various governments who are obviously building up enormous striking power.

The time has now come, he pointed out, to secure peace or to surrender all hope of it. What the maniac "aryans" did to the Jews is little to what they are preparing to do to themselves.

In such matters the sovereign power lies with the people. The experts, by the Atlantic Pact hope to build a balance of power, which may give a breathing space: but one year of that breathing space has already gone.

An overall treaty of understanding should therefore be in the making. Not in the first place an examination of detailed points of friction, nor an argument about disarmament, or the inspection of atom bomb plants. But an attempt broadly to state how we can live together during the next generation.

Such an agreement should begin with the admission that both parties desire above all else that total war may not break out. They agree therefore not to commit any minor aggression that might lead to total war, to leave all frontiers and governments as they are, to reduce all departments of war preparation by half in six months, to accept the principle of non-interference, (albeit non-approval) so that the best organisations may serve as examples, and to accept without reserve the good faith of each in adherence to this instrument of peace. Such an agreement should remain in force until 1970.

It is for the common man to insist that a lead of this kind be given.

The address has been issued as a four-page pamphlet by the Church, price 2d.

## Pacifist Service goes on the record

The third paragraph from the end of Peter Baynes' review of "These Our Children" (PN, May 12), was incomplete as printed. It should have concluded: "... intensive 'family casework' of the type developed during the war by Pacifist Service Units and continued now in Stepney by Stepney Pacifist Service Unit and elsewhere by Family Service Units."

Race Relations find a prominent place in the Spring issue of Christian Action Fellowship News and Views, published from 30 Beaconsfield Road, Birmingham, 12.



## Not enough books, No desks FOR ARMS: \$14 BILLION

Calvin Tooker, of Empire, California, is spending a year in voluntary service teaching at a Negro high school, the Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute, Missouri, "the only one in this part of the country." He is the only full time white member of the staff.

In "I teach Negro Students," which appeared in the Gospel Messenger (USA), April 8, 1950, he writes:

Unless I had experienced it myself, I would scarcely have believed that in the United States in the twentieth century there is a large portion of our population not enjoying the opportunities of a good, sound education. In my classes at Prentiss Institute, an all-Negro school, I have found many students who can scarcely read, and an even larger portion who are unable to express themselves in good English. The spelling and the sentence construction that I am encountering is atrocious and is so generally prevalent that it cannot be attributed to lack of mental abilities. My students simply have not been given the proper rudiments of education in the public schools; their teachers are so underpaid that well-educated people are not enticed to teach in the public schools. To meet this problem of giving my students some tools with which to seek a better education is to me a thrilling challenge. Even if I do not impart any real knowledge to them, I earnestly hope that I shall be able to give them some instruments that will aid them if they try to further their education in some other institution or privately.

The school in which I am teaching is the only high school for Negroes in this part of the county. It receives some public support but is dependent upon private donations in order to carry on the work that needs to be accomplished. Teaching high school students is a great undertaking for any institution, but when it is necessary to teach the very rudiments of education along with it, the task is truly gargantuan.

In only a very few of the classrooms do we have desks; the students use chairs and write on their laps for the most part. We do not even have enough funds to put in an adequate heating system; as of now we are using wooden stoves that do not really keep the rooms as warm as they should be. The library is quite meagre.

I have been almost stunned at the revelation of some of the barriers my students have to overcome. Many of them ride the bus for as far as twenty miles one way. One of my best students told me that by the time he rode the bus twenty miles it was dark when he got home. Then he had to do chores and what time was left he studied.

In addition to this, many of the homes are not really conducive to education, for the parents have no education, or so very little that they can be of no help to their children. That is not true of all of the homes but of a substantial portion of them.

At school we do not have enough books to go all the way round, so many of my students are unable to prepare lessons ahead of class time, even when the desire is there. The state has "run out of funds" and therefore it is impossible for us to get enough new books to meet our needs.

Last week PN quoted figures showing that 34 per cent. of U.S. Government expenditure was for military purposes: 14,268 million dollars in 1948-49. —Editor.

### OUR REVIEWERS

**HALLAM TENNYSON:** Worked in India for two years on a village rehabilitation project organised by the Friends Service Unit. With his wife he visited Mahatma Gandhi at Sevagram at the time of the communal rioting which precipitated the events leading to the Mahatma's death.

**H. S. L. POLAK** spent ten years with Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa, including the period which saw the first passive resistance struggle on behalf of the Indian community. He edited Gandhi's South African newspaper "India Opinion," shared imprisonment with the Indian passive resisters and twice visited India on behalf of the Indian community. On Gandhi's retirement from South Africa, H. S. L. Polak was appointed general adviser to the Indian community and with Gandhi, Andrews and Gokhale helped to put an end to the Indian indentured system, first in South Africa and afterwards throughout the Empire.

## THE CHALLENGE OF GANDHI

**The India of My Dreams**, by Mahatma Gandhi, compiled by R. K. Prabhu. Hind Kitabs, Bombay. Obtainable in Britain from Housman's Bookshop (Peace News, Ltd.), 3, Blackstock Road, London, N.4., 5s. 6d.

IN his busy life, Gandhi never had the time to write down systematically his theories of economics and education. Besides, the theories that he held were constantly subject to change and modification. They were being tested from day to day against the needs of reality.

This little book attempts to give a comprehensive picture of his thought and has been cleverly compiled from his writings and reported speeches in such a way as to read consecutively without interruption—a list of the sources being printed as an appendix at the end. The book was published on the day of independence.

The picture is inevitably incomplete. It leaves many questions unanswered and it shows little of the fascinating development of Gandhi's thought, since it necessarily attempts to leave an impression of consistency. But for someone coming fresh to Gandhi's ideas, it will prove an interesting and attractive introduction.

Gandhi's English had a humour and simplicity all its own. He is, above all, easy to read. His prophetic fervour did not lure him into being verbose. But he was a prophet. Let us make no mistake about it.

His challenge was a moral challenge. It was not a political challenge, nor an economic one. He hoped for no less than a change of heart. He decided that greed and ambition were at the root of the heavily industrialised societies of the West, with their network of inessential luxury goods and artificial wants, and that the armed conflicts in which the countries of the West were constantly involved were due to their struggle to maintain their artificially complex standard of life at the expense of others.

The key to non-violence lay in self-reliance in developing one's full capacity as a human being through one's work.

Having made his choice between a State based on service and non-violence or one based on ambition and greed, his practical mind busied itself with experiments to see how it could be worked out in terms of economic and family life.

The result was not the crack-brained mediaevalism that some people imagine. It was something new, something which no other century but our own could ever have produced. It was a village economy: an economy which did not discard industrialism out of hand, but attempted to limit it, to make it subservient to human needs and a strengthener of the dignity of the human person. Industrialism should be used not to kill cottage industry but to help it.

Anyone who believed that India would follow Gandhi's lead will no longer need disillusioning. He himself died in the conviction that the non-violence practiced by the majority in India had been a false non-violence, the non-violence of the weak, to which—as he never hesitated to assert—he preferred the use of force. Most ironical of all perhaps, the Basic Education schools started by some of the Provincial governments to give non-violent education outlined by Gandhi, have, in many instances, introduced military training into the curriculum.

Yes, once more a prophet has been rejected by his own country, in spite of the honour in which his name is held. And yet as one reads these pages one cannot help feeling that for many generations Gandhi's words will influence the minds of men and that the world will continue to ignore them at its peril.

HALLAM TENNYSON

### "Twentieth century massacre can never be justified," says priest

THE great Christian battles and crusades, led by saints, ratified by Popes, and in a few instances, it seems, by Heaven itself, cannot be adduced to justify twentieth century massacres. Present day warfare has assumed its own proportions; it has created a moral problem peculiar to this age. Instigated by imperialistic greed, and carried on with demoniacal weapons, war as we know it can never accord with the Gospel of Jesus.

"Verily Christianity has never been tried. In practice, we Catholics attribute more power for good to the atom bomb than to the dear virtues of our Christian calling."

—Father Robert A. Brown, The Catholic Worker.

### Pamphlets and Books

**Gandhi Murder Trial.** The Strickland Press, Glasgow, 2s.

IT is proper that the proceedings in the trial of Godse and his co-accused should be available to British readers in greater detail than was possible at the time of the Gandhi murder and the trial that resulted. They should prove of absorbing interest to the English-speaking public outside India. The Editor of "The World Quarterly," Guy A. Aldred, who is responsible for this publication has, to that extent, rendered a useful service.

But his method of approach in his preparatory remarks is far from being balanced and objective, as he would have his readers believe. His attack upon the trial court and its procedure is quite unjustified and, so far as the present writer is aware, neither was under criticism by the defence counsel, several of them at the head of the Indian legal profession. Had there been any substantial irregularity amounting to a denial of justice to the accused, it would have been appropriately dealt with by the Privy Council who rejected the petition for special leave to appeal.

Far worse, however, is the Editor's fierce and furious attack upon Gandhi whom, apparently, he did not know personally, and whose every activity and decision he distorts from its proper perspective and to which he attributes the worse rather than the better motive. His lack of balance in presenting a summary of Gandhi's life-work is evident, for example, from the disproportionate space that he gives (at second-hand) to Gandhi's short enjoyment of fashionable habits during his earliest months as a law-student in London. He had evidently not read the "Autobiography," or he would have learned how brief was that period, succeeded by all kinds of austerities some voluntarily undertaken and others because of the solemn vow that he had made to his mother before undertaking his journey.

The Editor's constant insinuation of Gandhian insincerity or double-dealing is not borne out by those, whether British or Indian, who knew him best, however strongly, as in the case of this writer, they may have differed from him at one time or another. Nor does it follow that the avoidance of Gandhian errors—or he was the last to claim infallibility or to be a Mahatma—might have prevented the dreadful consequences that have followed partition. On the other hand, had his advice been taken much earlier, it might well have resulted in permanently friendly communal relations.

Apart from unnecessary typographical errors that jump to the eye, Guy Aldred has let slip some errors of fact and statement which would not have been committed by a more accurate and less impulsive and prejudiced critic. The "Friends of India Society" never existed. G. K. Gokhale was the President-Founder of the Servants of India Society. Syed Hasan Imam never became Law Member of the Government of India. It was his brother, Sir Ali Imam, who did so. Gandhi did not "support" the Zulu War of 1906 any more than he did the Boer War of 1899-1902. He organised and served as leader of an Ambulance Unit. Was he less worthy of respect than the organisers of the Red Cross or the Friends' Ambulance Units on other occasions?

In the first world-war—later, as a convinced pacifist in all circumstances, he proclaimed his error—he recruited fighting soldiers because he was of the opinion that his countrymen were avoiding military service, not from conviction, but from cowardice, and he felt that they should rather die bravely fighting for their cause than that they should shrink back from fear. In the second world-war he was prepared to urge his countrymen to give non-violent—non-violent—support to the Indo-British Government in its efforts to resist Japanese invasion and conquest.

Guy Aldred, like many others, whilst strongly disapproving of Gandhi's assassination, would have wished that the death-penalty on Godse, whose intense if misguided and fanatical patriotism may be admitted, had not been inflicted. But, had he known Gandhi as this writer had done for more than 40 years, he would have accredited him with a reaffirmation of his plea on behalf of his would-be murderers in Johannesburg 40 years earlier, against whom he refused to give evidence—"Forgive them, for they know not what they do."

H. S. L. POLAK

### IRENOUNCEWARANDI WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER

This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union. Send YOUR pledge to

P.P.U. HEADQUARTERS  
Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St, WCI

## Friendship: The only defence

Disarmament or Destruction, by A. Ruth Fry, Thorpeness, Suffolk. 2d.

FOURTEEN years ago the author wrote a short imaginative History in which, when the World Co-operative Party were returned to power, the Premier, The Rt. Hon. Mary Smith ordered the ships of the British Navy to sail to mid-Atlantic that the tanks, bombs, and other devilish horrors, might be flung overboard and given an unregretted burial.

In 1949, a leading American paper in the USA stated "America has the power to start a disarmament race": she should announce her intention to destroy all atomic bomb parts, and invite Russia and other countries to audit the procedure. She should then ask Russia to do the same. In this way, and at some risk, U.S. could give convincing evidence of her intention not to use atomic bombs.

These two suggestions, 14 years apart, have much in common. Since the first the world has gone from bad to worse: the implications of war have been used more cruelly than we could have imagined possible, while the Governments of the world are at present occupied in a competition in devility. Was not, Ruth Fry asks, the Rt. Hon. Mary Smith after all the more practical?

The author then considers the policy of disarmament from two levels: the practical level and by the light of religion. By both standards it would appear the right policy for Britain. The money set free from the waste on armies and armaments could be spent on books and butter for other nations. It is freely said that Communism feeds on misery and poverty, the products of War. Let us give to the world friendship and food instead.

### POTATO PLANTERS AND PEACE

THOSE who have read with interest the first articles in the Daily Mail on life in Soviet Russia should not fail to read "Moscow Correspondent" by Ralph Parker, Times correspondent during, and for some time after, World War II and now Daily Worker correspondent.

In his book he lifts the Iron Curtain which Fleet Street places between the British newspaper reader and the sympathetic reporter of the post-war struggle to rebuild the Soviet Union.

Ralph Parker tells of his visit, in 1947, to a Motor Tractor Station which served 45 farms in the devastated Ukraine.

Before the war the station had 52 tractors. In 1947 it had 32, supplied either by Unrra or from other parts of the Soviet Union. That was not so bad, but then Ralph Parker was given the following figures: Combines, in 1940, 15, now none; Drills 21, now 11; Potato planters 15, now none; Potato diggers 20, now none.

I was angry when I put this book down. How dare Britain and the USA moralise about slave labour in the Soviet Union when they had failed to make a free gift to that country of half the agricultural plant which their arms factories might have produced in 1947.

Might not the gift of 20,000 combine harvesters, 30,000 drills, 20,000 potato planters and 30,000 potato diggers secure the release of those who are alleged to be in slave labour camps?

\* Frederick Muller, 10s. 6d.

## Ten Years Ago

From Peace News, May 24, 1940

Vickers-Armstrongs' gross profits for 1939, after allowances for taxation, ARP and undefined "contingencies" amounted to £1,778,143, an increase of nearly £100,000 over 1938.

If it appears to the Secretary of State that any person or organisation is concerned in the systematic publication of matter which is calculated to foment opposition to the prosecution of the war, to a successful issue... then, he will warn the person or organisation, and, if the offence is repeated, cause them to be prosecuted. The consequence of conviction will be that the person will be imprisoned for years and the organisation virtually dissolved.

Such is the substance of the new regulation. We need not hold up our hands in horror. It is grim, but we knew it was coming. In totalitarian war it is how the Government is going to interpret the words quoted, and in particular the phrase "the prosecution of the war to a successful issue."

From the pacifist point of view there can be no successful issue to this war—it is bound to produce a general degradation of human existence.

CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE

AT CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE  
I want Cadburys!  
ATE, CHOCOLATE, CHOCOLATE, CHOCOLATE, CHOCOLATE



Four thousand Channel Islanders hear peace appeal  
as they commemorate Liberation Day

## FACE THE FEARFUL FACT

ON May 10, Guernsey commemorated the fifth anniversary of liberation from German occupation in 1945 with a public religious service attended by over 4,000 people.

Below we give the address (slightly abridged) delivered by the Rev. Johnstone G. Patrick of St. Peter Port. The Archbishop of York, Dr. Garbett, also delivered an address in which he asked the people to "get ready to make the supreme sacrifice once more for freedom."

AN occasion such as this means a great deal to all of us who have a share in it. It is, so to speak, "our day." We are emotionally worked up, and in a fit mood to be favourably impressed and indescribably grateful. But there is more—very much more to it than this. There is a fearful fact to be faced—a fact which affects for weal or woe the whole world of men, women, and little children.

The most hideous chapters in the history of "man's inhumanity to man" have now been written, but if man—and that means you and me—if man doesn't mend his ways a final terrifying epilogue will yet have to be penned.

As a topic of conversation nowadays, or as subject matter, war is as unpopular as death. People try to dodge it, and let me add in parenthesis, just as unsuccessfully as they dodge death when he comes round their corner. Once people talked of nothing else. Today it is quite a popular remark to hear, "Oh, don't talk to us about war. We're sick to death of such a subject."

Well, I often wonder what they exactly mean by such an ejaculation. Is it that they find the memory of war too stinging, too stupendously shameful to stain the little-tattle talk of the everyday, or is it that they really wish to forget it because it's over; and things over-and-done-with lose nearly all their importance in the minds of certain people?

### "If we forget war..."

To me it always seems such a ridiculous, irrelevant, irresponsible remark. For you can't thrust out from your life the biggest and the blackest event in it. The ancients used to say, "To forget war and what it means is to allow the gods of war to sharpen their swords again." Thanks to men who have managed to mechanise and cheapen human life and to put murder on an industrialised, mass production basis, we can say, now, "If we forget war and what it means, then in our forgetfulness we allow our 'white' American cousins and our former 'red' Russian allies to go on increasing their stock-pile of hydrogen and atom bombs"—bombs which, when compared with those that were inexcusably and apardonably dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, are bigger, and better, and more terrible.

Furthermore, to forget war because we feel the Second World War finished five years ago is fantastically foolish.

Every war, and the last hellish one can hardly be thought of as an exception to the rule, leaves behind an immense amount of

unfinished business. The only things that came to an end on V-J Day were the dropping of atom bombs. Judging from what has been happening—and what is still happening—in the world, the killing, the looting and the shooting weren't finished. It is in recognition of this irrefutable fact, that an ever-increasing number of thoughtful men and women are saying that there is nothing settled by war which could not be settled more amicably, more effectively, more lastingly, and more humanely in other ways; and others are insisting that war really settles nothing.

### Unfinished business on home front

There is unfinished business on the home front, as there is unfinished business on the world-front. Obviously, those two fronts cannot be divorced. For better or for worse, we belong together, so that what happens in one part of the world now affects for good or ill all other parts. We are all either going to swim together, or sink together. That is now so clear that even he who runs may read—providing, of course, he isn't wearing blinkers.

What about the unfinished business on the homefront? The answer is not too difficult.

Above everything else, I can almost hear you say, we must make democracy work. And democracy, let me remind you, means not only government "of the people" and "by the people," but even more important "for ALL the people"—regardless of accident of birth, national origin, race, colour, creed or class. A democracy for me at the expense of any of my fellows, or to the exclusion of any of my fellows, is an utter contradiction in terms. It is either democracy for all or democracy for none.

### "Democracy dies with war"

If democracy is to work, then, and if it is to live, it is categorically imperative that we avoid two things:

- (1) another world war, and
- (2) another major depression.

Given a third war—even though we should "win" it—democracy won't have any legs left to stand on. Charles Beard, the historian whose words mean more—immensely more—to me than Mr. Churchill's, has said, "Democracy dies with war." We can either have democracy or war; we can no longer have both democracy and war.

Likewise, given another major depression, and democracy will vanish into thin air, for it is in times of depression that men heed the call of other ways of life. People who are hungry and cold, ill-clad and ill-housed, out of work and exploited, look for messiahs to lead them out of bondage into whatever land of promise is possible, even though the messiahs may be—but are, by no means always—wolves in sheep's clothing.

In the foreseeable future, democracy has only two choices: either it can make a frontal attack upon the ideology of Communism and perish on that rock; or it can remove those conditions in which Communism works wonders and cannot help but grow. One of those conditions would be war. Another would be the denial of freedom—economic, political, social, and cultural—to all the people. There can finally be no freedom for anyone, for any nation, unless there is freedom for everyone, and for every nation.

### Penitence first

On the world front, the amount of unfinished business fairly staggers the imagination. This unfinished business on the world-front involves at least three things. It involves, first of all, the spirit of penitence and forgiveness. It is the nature of war to employ hatred, and the more protracted and intense the war, as the Versailles Treaty has vindicated for ever, the deeper go the hatreds. So penitence and forgiveness are unconditionally essential.

G. K. Chesterton once said that there would be no hope for Europe and the world until into its ceaseless cycle of war, defeat, resentment and war a Cross was thrown again. In a word, the way of Jesus Christ's Cross is the only way out of the welter of war, the only way of hope and life for humanity.

Archbishop William Temple was apparently prepared to attempt this way—the hardest but only hopeful way.

It is said that before he died, far-sighted man that he was, he had already planned the act of worship to be used in the Thanksgiving Service which he knew would follow the end of hostilities. After an opening act of worship in which God was to be praised for His goodness, the Archbishop intended the whole emphasis should pass over into confession and penitence. He wished that the whole British nation should repeat the Fifty-first Psalm:

## Pacifist Portraits

No. 5

SOMEHOW Michael Tippett looks like a film star. Not the handsome dummy or ugly pugilist of the British or American screen, but one of those vital personalities favoured by Continental producers. It is no surprise to learn that he speaks the French language fluently, and at one time taught it to augment the meagre stipend afforded by his art.

He is a rather big man with a florid complexion and thick hair growing over a wide forehead. On formal occasions he wears the conventional dress, but is more typically pictured in a limp white shirt pushed into belted trousers, wide open at the neck and sleeves loosely rolled to the elbow. A good conversationalist, he is not a particularly eloquent speaker: he has a habit of standing behind his chair, putting his hands on the back of it and talking down to them until, moved by enthusiasm, he straightens up and addresses his listeners more directly. What he has to say is always characterised by deep sensitivity and intense personal reaction, and it is these very qualities which are so evident in his music.

Of good Cornish stock, as his name would indicate, Michael was born in London forty-five years ago, and went to school at Stamford. He says he was never a musical prodigy, but, like countless other children, "just musical"—and imaginative. During the last couple of years at school he began to give his imagination expression in musical composition, and found such satisfaction in this that he went on to the Royal College of Music. Here he was taught composition by Charles Wood and conducting by Sir Adrian Boult, but did not merely follow the traditional forms. His own distinctive music was coming strongly and he felt an irresistible urge to compose: an urge which has never slackened since.

His chief interest has always been in English choral music. At eighteen he had formed a choir of his own and was teaching them to sing madrigals; a work he continued until ten years later he went into the adult education field and began his connection with the Morley College, an institution known all the world over, which he himself describes with pride as an Evening School in the Humanities. Most of the building was destroyed by a landmine in 1940 but that has not discouraged Michael Tippett. With him as Director of Music—

a position once held by Gustav Holst—the College and its Concerts Society has made an outstanding contribution to the artistic life of London.

His most considerable work to date is an oratorio, "A Child of our Time," which he has conducted and broadcast here and in a number of continental countries—including some East European ones. It is a work distilled from the unforgettable and ever continuing story of persecution, and everywhere people who have suffered so much have responded to its brilliant imaginative interpretation. He is now at work on an opera, to be called "The Mid-summer Marriage," sitting in his cottage at Oxted, thumping on his piano, making it imitate all the instruments of the orchestra and singing all the vocal parts himself: but he says that it will be two years before it is ready.

Michael Tippett is a convinced pacifist. How could one so sensitive and imaginative be anything else? He is also an active one, and in 1943 was sent to prison for refusal to undertake military service. He is a sponsor of the Peace Pledge Union and one of the wisest and ablest members of its National Council.



MICHAEL TIPPETT

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving kindness; according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquities, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me..."

It is now clear that there can be no justice, no unity, no peace, without repentance and reconciliation. If there is anyone who believes that such is not the case, then let him confront himself with the question: "Can there be peace and order in a world of persisting and poisonous hatreds?" And as he answers the question, let him toss over in his mind that grim, inseparable, and terrible trilogy:

What we do not understand we fear;  
What we fear we hate;  
What we hate we kill.

Then, too, the unfinished business on the world-front involves relief and rehabilitation for the countless victims of the last war in Germany and Japan, as well as in Britain and France.

### Making the world safe for peace

One thing more; we must make the world safe for peace, and in that unfinished task each one of us has a stake. On the deepest level this means that Britain, France, and America, as well as Russia, must get war, the will to war, the blood-lust, out of their systems.

The time has come now when we no longer talk about what others should be doing toward making the world safe for peace unless we face frankly and fearlessly what each one of us must do, what Britain must do.

But where does Christianity come into all this? The answer to that pertinent question I answered to my own sorrow, and satisfaction, when one grey November morning, in 1944, I lifted ever so carefully a little mutilated body, weeks-old, and undressed, from a dirty heap of rubble. When I learned that for every little London baby who died that way, a hundred little German babies had also died, I was doubly sure that I had found the only right answer.

Here it is.

"If the Christian church does not make a total break with war as it is conducted in our time, its whole message and mission will be corrupted with impossible ethical contradictions."

In fact there are sure indications that the corruption in some sections of the Christian church is already and alarmingly far advanced.

### Would Christ do it?

And if you don't believe me, just try to imagine if you can Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the Light of the World, the Prince of Peace, that same Jesus, who sacrificed Himself to teach us a lesson of love and give us a new life, sitting behind a machine-gun pouring molten lead into distant masses of

men, or sitting in the bomb-bay of a giant armoured plane ready to release hydrogen bombs from a great height on Russian, American, English, or French cities and villages; or thrusting a bayonet into a belligerent boy's stomach; or killing babies faster, much faster, than the women of the world—in their travail—can bear them.

Shall we shrug our shoulders, as did Jesus Christ's contemporaries, and by our crass indifference shun the way of salvation and peace which He, by His unexampled sacrifice of Himself, offers us, then wait—as we have so often done—"It wasn't our fault."

But wait. Maybe after the next blood-bath there won't be any of us left to wail!

FLASHBACK: Before the island was occupied by the Germans in 1940 the populace were ordered to hand in all weapons to the police, there were penalties for failing to do so. Although in common with the rest of Britain the Channel Islanders had been told of the terrible consequences of German occupation and in London, Mr. Churchill was talking of fighting on the beaches and in the streets, the British authorities ordered the Channel Islanders to meet the Germans unarmed and not to "defend their homes."

### CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

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### The Piper

The beggar by the church-wall sat  
And piped his daily tune;  
The passers-by who caught his eye  
Could not get past too soon.

The beggar sat there year by year,  
And every year was long.  
His fingers strayed and sadly played  
A far-off marching song.

The ribbon pinned across his chest  
Was greasy, and below,  
The two short pegs that once were legs  
Were bound in sack and tow.

Across the road a drill-hall stood  
To which the small cadets  
Would weekly come to beat the drum  
And play with bayonets.

And every Sunday morning saw  
A glorious display  
When, khaki-clad, each strutting lad  
Lined up and marched away.

Twice round the square and up the hill,  
Then back and into church  
To meet their Lord (who sent a sword  
To aid the Christian's search).

The service o'er, the blessing made.  
With bugle, fife-note, gun  
And mangle stride the nation's pride  
Marched forth into the sun.

The vicar, following his flock  
To bless them on their way,  
Was glad to see that God and he  
Had wrought this fine display.

The beggar watched the boys march by,  
They neither cared nor knew;  
The vicar smiled on man and child,  
And God smiled—wryly—too.

While nations are for peace and make  
Their youth from Christ immune,  
The vicar prays, the beggar plays,  
The devil calls the tune.

JON WYNNE-TYSON



## A fundamental question

I AM a regular reader of Peace News, but I am no longer an absolute pacifist. The explanation may perhaps interest some other readers.

Absolute pacifism means absolute refusal to yield to totalitarian power. When I lived under Hitler, I found I was not capable of that. Take a small example. We were ordered to illuminate the house for a Nazi procession, and my comrade and I did so. I think a pacifist should ask himself: "Would I involve those I love most in torture and death, rather than carry out such an order?" I for one, say frankly that I would not dream of risking even my own fate on such an issue. And there is "the thin edge of the wedge."

In a neighbouring street a man criticised Nazi methods privately. He was carried off in the middle of the night and was not heard of again. An enthusiastic young Nazi was so horrified at some of the truth Irmgard Litten related by chance in his presence, that he at once resigned from the party. He too disappeared.

It can be truthfully said that if almost all of us were ready to sacrifice ourselves and others, no dictatorship could exist. But most of us are not made like that. My admiration is enormous for those who can face torture and death for the cause they believe in, but most of us find that action which seemed possible, while we were in safety, proves both less practical and more brutal, when the danger is around us.

HAROLD PICTON

177 Baldock Road, Letchworth, Herts.

## Children and uniform

THIS rather belated reply to Sybil Morrison's "Campaign Column" is due to the fact that I have only just received a copy of your issue of April 28.

I feel that pacifists and anarchists should be most careful to ensure that, in their desire for freedom, they do not unconsciously inflict injustice on others. Here I refer to "Pacifists may well be dismayed that their rulers should have the minds and natures of small children..." If they had, Peace News would be well nigh unnecessary.

Sybil Morrison assumes that small children have an inordinate love of glamour and gorgeous uniforms—but have they? From my observation of small children I would say their one desire was to do away with glamour and uniforms completely and to run about naked.

Small children are far more concerned with their personal freedom than an adult could ever be. They fight—for they are natural fighters, not conscripts—for it unceasingly without weapons of war. This fight for freedom is called, by child psychologists and others, the desire for mastery. It is not that at all; it is a consuming impulse for liberty, and only grown-ups who are really conscious of the need for it themselves can understand how necessary it is to the child.

The child mind is pure. He knows neither love of uniforms nor desire for war-like toys. These are generally foisted on him by adults. I have, on occasion, taken children shopping and have allowed them to choose which toy they would like (within the scope of my purse!). Not a single case can I remember of a child choosing anything of a militaristic nature. And these children had not the "handicap," as mine have, of pacifist parents.

My small son has, on several occasions, been given presents by kind relatives in the nature of tanks and aeroplanes. I don't encourage this, but if it happens I merely watch his reaction. The tanks and aeroplanes remain in the toy-box, exciting no interest at all, while the motor-cars, engines, etc., show signs of constant wear. His little sister's reactions are similar.

I hesitate to mention this for, should the Minister of War read it, he may insist that taxpayers shoulder the burden of free toys of this nature to all children; unless Sir Hartley Shawcross gets in first.

My husband, who was a small child during the 1914-18 war (there was no pacifist influence in his home at this time) screamed, so I am told, with dismay when he saw his father in uniform. Sensibility is the quintessence of a small child's nature.

The exquisite simplicity of a small child's speech would confound both the dilettante of Soho and the War Office. Could anyone conceive the child mind coining the word "casualty"? He might be far more inclined to "bloody corpse."

From the brief outline I have given of the child's mind and nature, perhaps Sybil Morrison will understand why I deplore her analogy between small children and our rulers.

In conclusion, I believe that until men renounce jealousy and women the maternal instinct, a little child must lead them.

(MRS.) E. M. WHITEHEAD

Addistone, Broughton-in-Furness, N. Lancs.

## In defence of UNO

MR. G. I. BENNETT is doing a great disservice to the cause of world peace when he underrates the work of UNO and by inference, the work of UNAs all the world over and all the specialised agencies.

Mr. Bennett states that the League failed: I would reply that no good work ever fails; whatever was good in the League has come forward into the work of UNO today.

The League did not fail, it was deserted; but the faith of men like Wilson is alive in our world today and guides those of us who are working for and believing in

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

United Nations and its achievements to date.

Again, Mr. Bennett asks your readers to get hold of Emery Reeve's "Anatomy of Peace." Some of us have already read it... the author says nothing new, for he merely deals with the old letter of the law.

World Government can never be achieved by merely making laws; it will come only when this still un-Christian world becomes dominated by the Spirit of Christ which is Universal Love.

(Mrs.) F. M. ASH

"Allways," Elm Road, March, Cambs.

## Is pacifism impractical

PACIFISTS have been criticised for being impractical; Gandhi's "soul force" is regarded as chimerical, though it had very practical results. However, let us for the moment accept the rebuke of the "realists," and humbly ask them for their solution of the difficulty.

Their first premise is that a heavily-armed nation is immune from attack. Yet some of us remember that 50,000 Boer

farmers once challenged a great Empire; that the Southern Irish repeated that challenge; that, in 1914, Germany struck at Belgium, undeterred by the formidable French army, backed by the might of the British Navy.

The second premise is that, if war does come, the well-knit, well-armed Western Union will be unconquerable. If this Union included France, Italy, and Belgium, then the "realists" ought to examine the recent political and military history of those countries, and try to estimate the strength of the Communist party in each. (Perhaps it would be tactless to remind the "realists" of the wonderful Maginot line).

Finally, let us assume the USSR conquered. What then? True conquest implies occupation as well. We shall need ever so many men to occupy, and re-educate, Russia, China, Rumania, Bulgaria, and a few other oddments. Or as it suggested that we eliminate the lot, thus repeating, on a large scale, the glorious victory of Hiroshima?

TOM SULLIVAN

31 Knockbreda Park, Belfast.

## From our readers abroad

## Australia to conscript women?

THE military authorities in Australia, no doubt inspired by New Zealand's recent introduction of conscription, are anxious to get young Australians into line, according to a report in the Nelson (NZ) Evening Mail, April 15:

"The Commonwealth Defence Committee has submitted to the Federal Government a scheme for compulsory military training for young men. The Committee consists of the chiefs of the three armed services and it advises the Minister of Defence."

"The chief of the General Staff, Lieut.-Gen. Sturdee, who is chairman of the Committee, said the compulsory training proposal was submitted to the (Australian) Government a fortnight ago. He added if the proposal were accepted, training of young men for the Army, Navy and Air Force would begin very soon."

"He said he would very much like to see women recruited and he did not think it could be very long before they were."

A. C. BARRINGTON

Lower Moutere, South Island, NZ.

## Real peace making

THANK you for your Easter article "It is finished." I would like to commend it as a sample of editorial policy or principles.

I hope it may be followed by similar studies and correspondence, for example on the real nature of (Christian) pacifism, and of real peace-making, peace-makers and peace, in qualities of soul or spirit.

Do please go on to work it out in our relationships to one another as individuals and as nations and individuals to USSR and USA.

CHARLES MARLAND

Stavanger, Norway.

## The German Anthem

AT a public meeting recently held in Berlin, after Dr. Adenauer had spoken, the assembly sang the third verse of the German anthem. The jungle press in other countries immediately began throwing dirt at the German Chancellor.

The average newspaper reader abroad, often not acquainted with German affairs, on opening his newspaper at the breakfast table is easily led to believe such a meeting is attended by militarists, chauvinists and war-mongers.

At the meeting in question, Herr Adenauer spoke of European unity, of goodwill between Western Germany and France and of peace in our times. The majority of British Press representatives at the gathering appear to have ignored that message. By acting in a hasty manner an opportunity to promote a peaceful atmosphere between Western Germany and other countries seems to have been lost.

RICHARD HOFFMAN

Berlin.

## Plea for the overdog

HAVING recently sent off my year's subscription, I feel sufficiently morally strengthened to cast my voice in modest vote on the editorial policy I dare to hope to find in our newly achieved eight pages. That is less-hatred of war and oppression and more love of our wicked world and frail humanity. Not that I hope any less devoutly, and desperately, than anyone else that we may all escape the ghastly fates which scientists have devised for us, but there are, after all, fates worse than these, and those are lack of faith and lack of love.

Does not the argument that armaments do not bring security completely falsify the pacifist position? Is it quite certain that political security can be brought by pacifism, and is that the kind of security we seek? Likewise let us champion the underdog, but not without sympathy for the overdog as well, who despite appearances is often in the greater need of it; after all, Lazarus and not Dives had the better of it in the end.

On close acquaintance one can grasp that the basis of the pacifist movement is faith

and love, but a non-pacifist might be forgiven if that is not always apparent to him from the headlines on our front page. May I therefore humbly submit the proposition, let us love Mr. Strachey, and undermine the War Office by affection, not disaffection.

IAN CIVIL

The International School of Geneva, Switzerland.

## Wants contacts in Europe

I AM a U.S. pacifist who would like to correspond with persons of similar beliefs in Great Britain. Besides pacifism, my interests are literature, philately and hiking. I am presently a college student majoring in Romance Languages.

I am very much interested to learn what other pacifists, especially in Europe, are thinking and doing.

P. C. HABER

850 East 17 Street, Brooklyn 30, NY, USA.

## A message from W. Germany

COMRADESHIP of Peace arose spontaneously as an independent group without a rigid programme or any kind of doctrinaire ideology. It is a circle of members, mainly of the younger generation, interested in social and artistic questions.

It is our main aim to provide opportunities to get to know the outlook and languages of other communities than our own, to appreciate foreign art and literature, and to achieve a fairer judgment of living conditions and education in various parts of the globe.

Friendship is an adventure in experience and in exchanges of views and thought, and does not require a specific set of rules or a party line. Organic growth, forms of co-operation in the voluntary and liberal sense, and the principle of accountable sovereignty on one's own home ground and functional decentralisation may have little attraction for the mass mind, yet we can well dispense with cheap propaganda. Whether British or French, German or Scandinavian, Dutchman, Swiss or Turk, individuals everywhere have to realise that we must unite in sincere work and with good will together with the constructive spirits to counterbalance all varieties of dictatorship.

We are on the look-out for like-minded people wherever they may be. Every one can help. In times like these the need for people to collaborate in the cultural sphere is especially important. Our publications, too, should be judged in this light. We are only at the beginning, but not necessarily dilettanti. We welcome every new contact to forward the cause of peace ensuring human rights, and comradeship based on liberty and responsibility.

ARNFRIED SADDAI  
Chairman, "Comradeship of Peace"  
(22a) Wuppertal-Elberfeld,  
Weissenburgstr. 27,  
British Zone, Germany.

## India and the death penalty

IN PN Nov. 25 there was a notice to the effect that Countess Tatiana Tolstoy had written to Pandit Nehru protesting at the death sentence for Gandhi's murderers.

I, too, protested to Pandit Nehru, to his sister, Mrs. Pandit, and to other influential Indians in our country, but to no avail.

That was disappointing enough, but what was more disappointing, was the fact that so few pacifists in our country or your country protested. Or could it be that there were many protests but the world was never informed? I do hope it was the latter.

Stuart Morris went straight to the heart of the matter when he suggested that India should abolish the death penalty. Such a move would have taken care of Gandhi's assassins in the only logical way open to that country, if she were to be consistent in any future cases.

It would seem that pacifists should devote more of their attention to the abolishment of capital punishment than they apparently do.

DON BROWN.

Chairman, Corning Peace Council.  
7, E. 3rd Street,  
Corning, NY, USA.

## Vacancy in India

SRIMAN NARAYAN AGARWAL, Principal of the Gevindram Seksaria College of Commerce, Wardha, has asked if we know of any young Pacifist who could join the staff of his college in order to teach English, up to high school and University standard.

Whilst it would be an advantage if he was a non-smoker and vegetarian, as he would then be able to adjust himself more readily to the Gandhian spirit of the school, I do not feel it is an essential qualification, although a desirable one.

A monthly allowance of RS.250 is offered to begin with, with annual increments of RS.15 rising up to RS.400. Residence with a nominal rent is provided within the college colony. The living allowance seems to us a possible one, and whilst it is not clear whether the passage money could be found, one worker has written that he thought it might be.

This seems to us a possible opportunity for an English pacifist, especially one interested in the Gandhian spirit and influence, and it seemed best to let you know of it. Any one interested should communicate direct with S. N. Agarwal.

RODERICK EDE

Secretary, India and Pakistan Dept.  
Friends Service Council,  
Friends House,  
Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

## Military training in India

WILL you please allow me to add a few words of clarification to the necessarily-condensed report you published (PN April 7) of my talk to the Hampstead PPU on the subject of "India without Gandhi?"

What I then said was that the essentials of Gandhism consist of some, not all, of the traditional ideals of India; that Gandhism is prior to and more comprehensive than the movement which Mahatma Gandhi himself originated and enriched by his greatness and genius, but which was, at the same time, conditioned by his restrictive social and political outlook (regarding, for instance, class struggle, property, and so on); that nevertheless this movement was "far greater than anything that had yet been practised or demonstrated" in the long annals of socio-religious struggles.

And finally; that thanks both to the compelling international affairs and to the inadequacy of the National Leadership to pursue either the methods of Gandhism or of socialism in the social, economic, political and military spheres, India without Gandhi is now limping along the same old way familiar to us in other parts of the world. Unless these tendencies are checked, I added, the present methods of military training and scientific warfare will bring in their train all other obvious evils like atomic and bacteriological weapons (I have, however, no knowledge of actual experiments in the latter field).

AYANA DEVA ANGADI

7 Harley Road, London, NW3.

## The electoral problem

THAT Roy Sherwood (PN March 10) should favour opposition to Proportional Representation may please the partisans of particular groups, but how it can promote the idea of Peace surpasses my understanding. Equal liberty, fair play, is an essential condition for peace among men.

That our present electoral system fails to give fair representation to the ideas of the voters appears evident from the composition of military and industrial conscription and other unpopular measures. PR is a proposal to secure fair play at elections and as near as possible fair representation to the ideas of the voters.

J. H. MCGUIGAN

Clara, Clough,  
Downpatrick,  
Co. Down, N. Ireland.

## Tell the children

I SHOULD like to support the suggestion by Frank E. D. Stark, Kingston-on-Thames headed "For the young" in issue of Oct. 28, 1949 (which I had not been able to read earlier through being in hospital).

In it he suggested a children's pacifist propaganda sheet for boys of 14 or 20 years either inside PN or separately.

I think that one of these ideas should be put into practice at once.

LESLIE WHISKIN

13 Pulteney Avenue, Bath.

## Don't hide us under your bushel

CONGRATULATIONS on the enterprise of your paper in its extension to eight pages.

I would suggest in order better to advertise the paper that readers read it openly in trains and buses as I do, instead of hiding its light under the bushel of their homes!

REGINALD C. PAYNE

By the Church, Old Coulsdon, Surrey.

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Theatre and Radio

# SAUCE PACIFISTE

AN army general, his chest a pincushion of medals and their condiments, settles down in one corner of a railway compartment. His reading of the paper is quickly interrupted by an inspector who asks the general to leave this compartment which is reserved for a rather extraordinary person. The general protests and, when told that the expected passenger is a lunatic, keeps his seat. Soon the expected inmate of Screwey-On-Tyne enters, vacant expression included, sits in the far corner.

His "hallo" raises the general's eyebrows, makes fall his monocle and brings a mutter about people not knowing their rank. As the countryside towards Screwey-On-Tyne flies by the window, a rather hesitant conversation develops. It runs:

Lunatic: What do you do for a living?  
General: I'm a soldier ma boy.  
L: What do you do for a living?  
G: I'm a soldier ma boy.  
L: What do soldiers do?  
G: Well, they, um, kill the enemy y'know.  
L: Well then what do they do when there's no war?  
G: Thev, um, practise killing people.  
L: Don't they ever do anything else?

G: (by now hot and bothered): We do go on leave.  
L: What do you do on leave?  
G: I hunt.  
L: What's that?  
G: I chase a fox on a horse, ma boy.  
L: Ha, ha! I've never seen a fox ride a horse!  
G: No y'fool; I'm on the horse chasin' the fox.  
L: And when you catch him?  
G: Well, I kill him, of course.  
L: Oh, you terrible man, why kill a poor little fox?  
G: Well, damn it, man, its sport, don't y'know?  
L: What else do you do when you can't kill men or little foxes?  
G: Well, em, I fish and, eh, shoot.  
L: What's that?  
G: I hook the fish and I shoot down little, weeny birdies.  
L: You terrible man; killing little foxes and nice birds and fishes just because they won't let you kill lots of other men.  
G (beside himself throws a helpless look but has no respite).  
L: Why do you wear khaki?  
G: So the enemy can't see me.  
L: What's that bright red ribbon round your cap?  
G: That's to show I'm a GENERAL.  
L: But you just said you don't want to be seen; now you say that you wear that red ribbon so you can be seen.  
G: Oh, my...

L: You're a terrible, terrible man. First you don't want to be seen then you do. Then you spend half your life killing men and because you can't kill men for the other half you kill foxes and birds and teeny weeny fishes.  
(The train slows down as the guard calls "Screwey-On-Tyne." With a last look at the lunatic the general jumps madly out shouting "This is my stop." The lunatic stays on the train.)

The Cambridge Theatre seems to have found via their excellent comics, the right inhabitants for our State mental homes at last! The above sketch is culled from their current show *Sauce Piquant*. P.C.R.

## Communism and Detectives

DEFENCE against Communism was the substance of *Atlantic Outlook* (Taking Stock) as half a dozen European and American observers sat round a BBC microphone on the eve of the North Atlantic Council decisions and placidly agreed that what was needed was "a greater show of American force." True enough the Frenchman tried to emphasise the economic roots of war, which was taken as a cue to discuss at tedious length the economics of militarism—of "pooled forces."

When the inevitability of war is so easily accepted, what hope is there for the millions of displaced people still taking part in *The Greatest Detective Story in History*?

It is difficult enough to shape the work of the International Tracing Service with its 4,000 monthly enquiries into a comprehensive one hour broadcast, without the added complication of Dick Barton, Philip Odell and Sherlock Holmes. Were they introduced to catch the thriller fans?

At the end of the broadcast we were left among 6,000,000 cartons of cards, fascinated, indeed, that within the impersonality of destruction there was still hope for the individual—the cards which would match giving lie perhaps to those thousands of other cards which will for ever remain undusted in the files of ITS Headquarters at Arolsen as tragic evidence of that detective story which may never be resolved and whose victims, the children, "will go on waiting for homes that never come."

AUDREY BOORNE

## NOT A CO

### TO THE EDITOR

I NOTICE in your "Radio Notes" last week that Audrey Boorne described me as a "Conscientious Objector." May I correct that statement by enlarging a little on the views expressed in "Man at War"?

First of all, I am of the opinion that every one of us should work for peace; and quite clearly we should exchange our faith in Hydrogen Bombs for a real faith in God and trust in our fellow-men; but if, and when war comes, I shall be willing to fight again, because I cannot find it within myself to stand by and see my family and friends, or even my country, attacked and ravaged.

ALAN CROWLEY

22 Borough Way,  
Potters Bar, Middx.

## Indo - Pakistan dispute PPU CHAIRMAN'S LETTERS

APPRECIATION of the considerable risk, both personal and political, which Pandit Nehru took in arranging a meeting with the Premier of Pakistan, has been expressed by Vera Brittain, Chairman of the Peace Pledge Union in a letter to the Indian Premier.

Writing on behalf of the PPU, Vera Brittain said:

"Your meeting with Premier Liaquat Ali Khan was of special interest to us because it followed so closely on a service of intercession which we had helped to arrange at the church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields on March 22.

"We rejoice in the success which has so far attended your endeavours, and it is our earnest hope that the way now opened up will lead to a firm and peaceful solution of all outstanding difficulties."

A letter in similar terms has been sent to the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The full text of both the letters appear in the June issue of the PPU Journal now on sale, 5d. post free from Peace News, Ltd., 3 Blackstock Road, N.4.

## Puzzle: find the aggressor

Mr. Rhys Davies (intervening when Mr. Shinwell, in the House of Commons, announced a recent meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Powers): The statement sounds very much like preparations for another war.

Mr. Shinwell: The last thought we have is about preparation for war. What we are concerned with is defence. We are concerned with the preparation of an adequate deterrent to a potential aggressor.

Moscow Radio (Home Service): The military parade in honour of May Day is coming to an end. Everyone of these soldiers is ready, at the first call from their country to change into battle dress and to strike a crushing blow at any aggressor.

## WORLD CITIZENS MAKE NEW NEWS

PROBLEM before a Strasbourg Court recently was whether Garry Davis, who declared himself a "world citizen" was a "European personality," when he stayed in a Strasbourg Hotel last September.

The manager of the hotel is being tried for not filling in the proper forms. He protested that he did not have to fill in forms for Garry Davis because he was a European personality, says BUP.

JOHN DIBBERN, 60, produced a home-made passport when he arrived at Hobart, Tasmania, recently. It was accepted although he was German born.

His passport contains a declaration that he feels his place, after years in various countries, outside of nationality. The bearer is "a citizen of the world and friend of all people," the document declares.

## "Try again for peace" —Congregationalists

THE Congregational Union of England and Wales, at its Assembly in London on May 18, welcomed and endorsed the statement on the Hydrogen Bomb issued by the British Council of Churches at Cardiff in April, and added that, should it be practicable, the Council should seek the co-operation of such national voluntary associations as may be deemed wise to invite, in framing and presenting a joint memorial embodying these proposals to H.M. Government.

The British Council of Churches' statement urged the Government not merely to declare its readiness for renewed international consultation, but to take the initiative in promoting it. It asserts that the demand in many quarters for a new effort to break the deadlock on the control of atomic energy is justified.

## Up and doing!

### "FOR SALE . . ."

Many booksellers and newsagents have a conspicuously placed advertising board outside their premises. For a copper or two a week it will provide excellent publicity for "Peace News," especially effective if the newsagent is stocking the paper, out of value in any case.

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**PEACE NEWS**  
the international newspaper?  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday  
No one concerned about peace, world affairs, and the prevention of atomic destruction can afford to miss this challenging newspaper.  
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Here, reduced in size is a reproduction of the card which we supply, free of charge, for this purpose. It will attract attention on notice boards and may be used as a poster. Do take a quantity and help with the urgent job of making Peace News more widely known.

H.F.M.

Circulation last week 9,700 copies  
Circulation previous week, 10,000 copies  
Congratulations to Birmingham readers who in a single week-end sold 150 copies at two meetings.

## Notes for your Diary

### Saturday, June 3

STOCKTON ON TEES: 3.30 p.m. Friends Meeting House; Speaker: Hugh Faulkner; FoR.

ASHINGTON: 6.30 p.m. Methodist Central Hall; Speaker: John Ferguson, MA; Area Conference, FoR.

HOLLOWAY: 3 p.m. Labour Exchange, Medina Rd.; Anti-conscription Poster Parade and outdoor meeting. All supporters welcome; Isling-on Peace Group.

### Saturday, June 3 - Sunday, June 4

LEATHERHEAD: from Saturday afternoon. The Priory, Social Order Commission's weekend Conference; Chief Speaker: Wilfred Wellock; Applications with deposit to Dorothy Bing, 6 Alton Rd., Croydon; Charge for weekend 15s.; PPU.

### Sunday, June 4

HYDE PARK: 3 p.m. Open-air meeting; Speaker: Sybil Morrison; PPU.

LONDON, W.C.2: 5 p.m. Kingsway Hall; Mr. McDonald Douglas on "The Theology of Christian Pacifism"; Methodist Peace Fellowship.

### Monday, June 5

TOWER HILL: 1 p.m. Speakers: Jack Sutherland and Gwyneth Anderson; PPU.

### Wednesday, June 7

DULWICH: 8 p.m. Dulwich Grove Congregational Church; "Peace through Non-Violence"; PPU.

### Thursday, June 8

LONDON, W.C.2: 7 p.m. Kingsway Hall, Kingsway; Speakers on Africa include Rev. Michael Scott, Kingsley Martin, Mr. Irikpo, Ritchie Calder, Reginald Sorensen, MP, and Dr. Olaf Stapledon; Full particulars available on application to "Africa" Committee, c/o NPC, 144 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

### Friday, June 9

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m. 8 Endsleigh Gardens; Report of Weekend School; Ted Orr; Central London PPU.

### Saturday, June 10

LONDON, W.C.1: One day conference at the Victoria Hall, Bloomsbury Square; Speakers on Africa include Rev. Michael Scott, Kingsley Martin, Mr. Irikpo, Ritchie Calder, Reginald Sorensen, MP, and Dr. Olaf Stapledon; Full particulars available on application to Africa Committee, c/o NPC, 144 Southampton Row, W.C.1.

### Sunday, June 11

HYDE PARK: 3 p.m. Open-air meeting; Speaker: Stuart Morris; PPU.

### Friday, June 16

BIRMINGHAM: 7 p.m. Friends Meeting House, Bull St.; Bernard Boothroyd, Editor of Peace News, addressing a joint meeting of all West Midland pacifists.

### Saturday, June 24 - Sun., June 25

LONDON, S.W.5: International Weekend Conference on "The Present World Crisis, Is there a way out?"; International People's College, 10 South Bolton Gardens, S.W.5.

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When corresponding with PN about an advertisement, quote its first words, classification, and date.

### MEETINGS

WEIGH HOUSE Church, Duke Street, W.1. (Bond St. Tube). Sunday evenings at 7. The Gospel of Peace! Social hour follows.

DR. KAGAWA, Sunday, June 4. 6.30 p.m. at Regent Square Presbyterian Church.

### ACCOMMODATION

COLUMBINE GUEST cottage. For long or short visits. Enjoy beautiful country without isolation. Vegetarian simple comfort. Reasonable terms. Frances E. Morgan, Uckfield, Sussex.

DERBYSHIRE HILLS. Vegetarian Guest House. Rest and comfort amid beautiful scenery. Arthur and Catherine Ludlow. The Briars, Crich, Near Matlock. Tel: Amberley 44.

HOLIDAY CHALETs to let. June, July, Sept. Vegans/Vegetarians only. 6/9s. weekly. Crocker, Buckleigh, Westwood Ho. ILFRACOMBE: Chris Collis, Pinehurst, Chambercombe Park. Guests welcomed from Easter. Lovely country. Near Sea.

A PEACEFUL holiday at Mount Avalon, Glastonbury, Somerset; Vegetarian; Beautifully situated and convenient for excursions in this lovely part of the West Country. S.A.E. for brochure to Arthur Mann.

STEARBRIDGE WELCOMES guests of all nationalities. Vacancies June, July, September. Fees reduced if three or four willing to share large room. Breakfast in bed (optional). Finlayson, Stearbridge, Nr. Stroud, Glos. Tel. Painswick 2312.

VISIT GLORIOUS Lakeland. Highfield Vegetarian Guest House, the Heads, Keswick, offers beautiful views, good food and comfort in friendly atmosphere. Small conferences and parties welcome. Write Anne Horner, Tel. 408.

WANTED URGENTLY accommodation in cultured home for 10 years old girl during school holidays. Preferably seaside. Moderate charges. Mrs. Roth, 91 River Avenue, Hoddeston, Herts.

### PERSONAL

MARRIAGE BUREAU offers unrivalled personal service. Nation-wide clientele. Mary Blair (Room 59), 147 Holborn, E.C.1.

### EDUCATIONAL

HEVER WARREN School, Edenbridge, Kent. Holiday. Children. Rambles. Good food. Also vacancies, summer term.

SPEAKING & WRITING lessons (correspondence, visit) 5s. Dorothy Matthews, BA, 32 Primrose Hill Road, London, N.W.3. PRImrose 5686.

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### LITERATURE, &c.

QUAKERISM Information and Literature respecting the Faith and Practice of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends' House, Euston Rd., London.

### FOR SALE & WANTED

CHEAP ENVELOPES. Good quality, light weight, buff, 6 in. x 4 in., gummed, 1s. 6d. 100, 11s. 6d. 1,000; 9 in. x 4 in. ungummed, 2s. 1d. 100, 14s. 10d. 1,000, all post free. Housman's Stationery Dept., Blackstock Road, London, N.4.  
NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS good quality cream wave 10 in. x 4 in. (as used in PN office) 2s. 100, 17s. 6d. 1,000 post free. Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

### SITUATIONS VACANT

PEACE WORK is available for all volunteers at Peace News office. Day time and every Wednesday evening we shall be grateful for help. Write, phone, or just drop in, to Peace News (STAmford Hill 2262) 3 Blackstock Road (above Fish and Cook, Stationers), Finsbury Park, N.4. (one minute from station).

### SITUATIONS AND WORK WANTED

GESTETNER DUPLICATING, every variety. Mabel Eyles, 395 Hornsey Road, London, N.19. ARC 1765/MOU 1701.

WATCH AND Clock repairs. Reliable service. Old gold and silver purchased. Aubrey Brocklehurst, 77 Brent Way, Finchley, London, N.3.

WORKING PUPIL (girl) with some experience, available July, for mixed farm. M. Williams, Bull Lane, Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

### MISCELLANEOUS

WAR RESISTERS' International welcomes gifts of foreign stamps an undamaged air mail covers. Please send to WRI, Linsbury House, 88 Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex.

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for Active Pacifists  
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JOURNAL**  
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## MY SON HAS BEEN IMPRISONED

—mother tells  
Co-op Congress

MRS. ALSOP told the Co-operative Women's Guild Conference at Sheffield last week that her 18-year-old son had just been taken to Strangeways Gaol, Manchester, because he refused to serve in the Armed Forces.

Her son, Ivor, was a member of the Woodcraft Folk.

The Guild, which represents 62,000 women, is to launch a campaign for his release, according to Press reports.

Mrs. Alsop told a Reynolds' correspondent at the Congress, "I can only say he is a brave lad and I am proud of him."

"I am not banking on anything being done for him, but perhaps something can be done for other boys, though."

The Congress reaffirmed its demand for the repeal of the National Service Act. A resolution was also passed which stated:

"It is the duty of the Labour Government to refuse to accept war as an inevitable outcome of international difficulty, but to work for peace, not only by being unprovocative, but by refusal to be provoked."

Other resolutions called for the outlawing of the Atom Bomb and a reduction in arms expenditure.

## CD PROTEST AT COUNCIL MEETING

"MONEY spent on these projects will be wasted," the Rev. H. J. Dale protested when the Maulden Parish Council met last week to discuss the formation of a Civil Defence Unit.

The meeting heard Lieut.-Col. A. C. E. Caiger, County Civil Defence Officer, declare that Civil Defence was not necessarily needed for war, but if war did come in these days of atom bombs and other means of destruction, thousands of lives might be saved.

Being prepared might well be a deterrent, he asserted. He expressed the view that in the last war Germany did not use a new and deadly gas because they were aware that we had a more deadly one.

The Rev. H. J. Dale, a Peace Pledge Union member, declared that Civil Defence would not deter any country from war; a better deterrent would be to foster a spirit of Christian understanding for peace.

A cinema show was arranged to take place in the Church Hall, when it was hoped to obtain recruits.

**Emrys Hughes, M.P.**

writes every week in

## FORWARD

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## TRUTH ABOUT GARLIC

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**GARLISOL (non-smell) GARLIC REMEDIES, FAIRLIGHT, SUSSEX**  
mention Peace News

## What Bevin's refusal means

(Continued from page one)

Mr. Bevin, summing up the four day's work of the North Atlantic Treaty Conference at their final meeting on May 18, described the new grouping of Western Powers as a peaceful association: "In the past we have had military alliances. The very foundation of the Atlantic Pact is to bring its freedom-loving peoples together in such a way that they can prevent another war."

I am not amongst those cocksure pacifists who can declare dogmatically that such a policy, now known to be that of the Western Governments, is a certain prelude to war. People, policies and situations in the growing organism of human society are plastic rather than rigid, even within the tough Marxist orbit; subject to continuous modification; and so there is always room for hope, faith and—works.

## LONDON PEACE COMMITTEE FORMED

TO weld together people in London who desire peace, was declared to be the aim of a delegate conference called last Saturday to form a London Peace Committee.

Rev. Mercer Wilson of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship was loudly applauded when he said:

"If we Catholics, Jews, Protestants, Agnostics and Communists all get together and stay together, there will be no war."

Mr. J. R. Sandy, a member of the Society of Friends and Vice-chairman of the London Federation of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, was in the chair.

Sybil Morrison and Hugh Brock of the Peace Pledge Union, attending as observers, addressed the meeting and were later nominated members of the Committee.

The majority of the delegates from the 37 organisations represented were from trade union branches; the Chairman expressed his appreciation that so many workers were now rallying to the cause for which he and other pacifists had stood for so long.

Groups and organisations wishing to be represented on the Committee are invited to contact the Secretary Mr. G. Rude, 31 Tanza Road, N.W.3.

**BRISTOL:** "It seems to me a complete failure to hope for the best and prepare for the worst," said Dr. Donald Soper when he addressed a well-attended lunch-hour service in St. James Church, Horsefair, recently. He thought that of all men, only the Christian had cause for hope in the world of today.

**LEYTON:** A very successful Sale of Work was recently held in the Tabernacle Methodist Church Hall, by the World Youth Friendship League. Mrs. Arthur Bird, wife of the founder of the League, presided and spoke of the Christian nature of the movement and how essential it was to unite men and women of all races and colours together in an endeavour to outlaw war. Opener was Mrs. Bühler of Lucerne, Switzerland, who attends the Woodford Green branch.

## Registration Day

**ISLINGTON PEACE GROUP** will hold an open air meeting outside the Holloway Labour Exchange on June 3, National Service Registration Day, at 3 p.m. They will also poster parade in the vicinity if sufficient volunteers are forthcoming.

The Peace Pledge Union have issued a new leaflet, "You can break the vicious circle of war," addressed to young people of conscription age. It carries a picture on the front of Pietro Pinna, the Italian CO, on his way to prison, and on the fourth page information of use to young people wishing to know more of the pacifist movement. It has been written by Hugh Brock, Assistant Editor of Peace News.

tinuous modification; and so there is always room for hope, faith and—works.

## Approaching disaster

But I share to the full with fellow pacifists anxiety at a course fraught, as probably few non-pacifists would deny, with extreme danger; and I come near to the conviction of approaching disaster as I dwell on the fundamental immorality of such courses vividly revealed in atomic and bacteriological warfare, to which reference was made by the delegation—a sense now vaguely apprehended by the general public; which brings us back to our starting point.

War is an out-of-date behaviour pattern, said Dr. Brock-Chisholm at the St. Cergue Peace Conference last September in a message that circled round the world. Unless mankind through his unique power to think reaches a new maturity, he is lost. It is a race between maturity and destruction.

The men-in-the-streets of the world's capitals are becoming aware; but are their political and cultural experts equally so?

We read almost daily in the Press of new and more deadly weapons; and the News Chronicle ends its leading article on the North Atlantic Treaty with the words: "Lancaster House having absorbed its diplomats, must turn out its tanks and guns, its aircraft and its ships. It is for these that the people are waiting. It is on these that our safety will ultimately rest." God help us!

CORDER CATCHPOOL

## VILLAGE POINTS THE WAY

Boxwell-with-Leighterton votes for Labour pacifist

THE parish of Boxwell-with-Leighterton (Glos.) has shown confidence in a pacifist Labour candidate which the cities of Britain would do well to note.

In the election of a councillor for the Tetbury Rural District Council it has returned Stanley Hayward, farm-worker, conscientious objector of World War II and a former pacifist service unit worker.

And this after Stanley Hayward had denounced the Labour Party for having expelled pacifists.

This was his address, written from Bleak Cottage, Leighterton:

Dear Neighbour,

There being little need for me to introduce myself to you, may I present the main points of my election appeal.

I stand for the improvement of rural amenities by joining our Combined Personal efforts to the full and intelligent use of public resources.

As regards individuals, prior attention, I feel, should be given to those seeking homes, youth and the aged.

Merely to catch votes I do not intend to soft-pedal my pacifist convictions in fact largely from these arise my interest in social welfare. Further it is not difficult to prove that an important cause of war is social injustice anywhere, of which there is little doubt this area has as share, some of which I would do my best to remove were I elected. Beyond that I promise nothing.

This also shows my attitude to any rigid party line. For Labour, to its eternal shame, has expelled Pacifists from the party.

To conclude, I will ask you to exercise your democratic right by voting, not necessarily for me, but for the candidate who you honestly believe will do most good for this parish whilst paying due regard to the needs of the whole rural district.

With best wishes, Yours sincerely,

STAN HAYWARD.

The poll: Stanley Hayward, Labour 53; James Mitchel, Independent (Tory), an ex-serviceman farmer 42.

## 'ATLANTIC BROTHERHOOD' PLEASE NOTE

Europeans torture Chinese in Malaya

AFTER a judge had found two police officers in Malaya guilty of "almost indescribable indecencies and studied cruelty" he sentenced them to 2 years and 18 months imprisonment respectively. The police officers, Europeans, had tortured Chinese prisoners in order to extract confessions. These facts were revealed in the House of Commons on April 26 when Mr. J. Griffiths, the Colonial Secretary was questioned on the matter by Mr. Emrys Hughes, MP.

## Black Record

THE Governor of Kenya has absolute discretion to prohibit the importation of any publication where he considers it would be contrary to the public interest, said the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. Griffiths, in the House of Commons on April 26. "So far as I am aware the most recent exercise of these powers was in February, 1950, in the case of a book 'Africa—Britain's Third Empire.'"

## STOP PRESS

The Allied Forces are no longer in Germany as occupiers but as defenders—Mr. John McCloy, U.S. High Commissioner.

Sybil Morrison's

## CAMPAIGN COLUMN

Hendon education committee agreed on Tuesday to order headmasters to allow army lecturers and cadet organisation officers to address schoolboys in school. "We live in a hostile world," said Alderman Knowles, "and give no training to those who would be called upon to defend us in an emergency." Army lecturers will visit the schools, secondary and senior primary, in April, May, June, and July. Cadet officers will hold meetings during school hours, and senior boys will visit the army apprentice schools mobile van when it comes to Hendon. Chairman of the Education Committee, Alderman A. W. Curton, assured a questioner: "You can definitely take it that there will be no compulsion on any terms for boys whose parents object."

—Hampstead and Golders Green Gazette, March 29, 1950

ONE of the main objections raised in this country to the Hitler Youth movement was the fact that young people were being indoctrinated at the most impressionable age, with the ideology of war; that they were encouraged to admire and imitate the military by the wearing of uniforms, by marching, saluting, and learning the use of war weapons, and that, at the same time, they were instructed that the defence of their country against an enemy might depend upon them.

But now, it appears, that in Britain, or at least in one small region of Britain, Education Authorities are preparing to go one better than Hitler, and teach children the methods of war while they are still at school for this teaching is to be in school hours—in other words, part of the weekly time-table of lessons—and can only be avoided if parents come forward with an objection.

It seems incredible that an Alderman and member of a Local Education Committee should actually deceive himself, and others, that learning the art of war at the age of 14 or 15 will be any defence if war should come.

To teach children that some unexpected emergency may arise in which they will be called upon to defend their homes is in itself totally dishonest; preparation for war is going on now; treaties and pacts involving the expenditure of thousands of millions of dollars and pounds for armaments, are already signed and sealed; conscription at 18 is accepted as part of the law of this land.

## The agony of "being different"

It is equally incredible that any responsible person should so glibly suggest that a bad decision taken by the authorities can be covered up and justified through the introduction of a promise to excuse from the lectures those children whose parents object.

One of the main difficulties in regard to conscientious objection to conscription in this country, and resistance to it in those countries where there is no conscience clause, is the reaction of youth against being different from the rest of society. At no time is this unwillingness and self-consciousness in regard to being different, so strong as it is at school age.

Do these Councillors and Aldermen, who desire that school boys be taught how "to defend us in an emergency," but are graciously willing to allow the parents a conscientious objection, have no remembrance at all of their own childhood and the agony of self-consciousness engendered possibly, by even so small a thing as a new article of clothing, which differed from that of the rest of the exclusive community of school?

If they do remember, evidently such memories must be conveniently put in the background, in order that their own consciences be assuaged; the instruction of our children in the art of warfare is their concern; the dilemma of the conscience-stricken parent is not.

## Disguising the art of killing

What an outcry there would be if it were compulsory for schools to receive lecturers on the art of non-violence! But because these boys are to be instructed in the art of killing, disguised as lessons in defence, hardly a voice is raised to save them from the aggression of the adult world.

This is a question in which all parents must be vitally concerned, and Dora Russell, who with her husband Bertrand Russell, has experimented in new ways of education, is particularly interested in the effect which a child's education may have upon the whole problem of war and peace. She will lead the discussion on Peace through Education at this is an opportunity to discuss the whole subject with an expert which should not be missed. There are still a few rooms and it is also possible to get to Haywards Heath and back to London each evening if desired.

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